(d) if so, what steps are being taken (a) It has not been possible to some other area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) It has not been possible to locate an alternative site for dumping the garbage.

(b) The refuse is collected regularly to avoid insanitation and pollution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The owner of H. No. 13, South Extension Part-I has filed a suit in the Court and matter is subjudice.

Persons Killed by terrorists in Punjab

299. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons killed at different places in Punjab by terrorists since the imposition of President's rule there;

(b) what is the number of terrorists killed/wounded in that State during this period;

(c) what is the number of security personnel killed/seriously wounded by terrorists during the above period; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the law and order situation and eliminate terrorism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the period 12th May, 1987 to 22nd July, 1987, 224 persons, including 21 policemen, were killed due to terrorist activities in Punjab, 104 terrorists were killed in the State during the period.

The information regarding the number of terrorists and policemen injured is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The steps taken to improve law and order situation and to curb terrorist activities in Punjab include raid on the hide-outs of terrorists, their harbourers and associates; deployment of para-military forces; intensification of police patrolling, confering of powers of search arrests, etc. under the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983, to para-military forces, and strengthening of security arrangements on the border

Forest Depletion

300. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate at which forests are being depleted annually;

(b) as against the target of afforestation of 5 million hectares of land every year, what is the actual achievement during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(c) what is the estimate of funds needed for taking up afforestation of land of 5 million hectares every year; and

(d) what are the reasons for the shortfall and what steps have been taken to improve the area under forest cover during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to studies of satellite

imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares.

(b) The targets for afforestation during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 were 1.40 million hectares and 1.71 million hectares respectively and the actual achievements have been 1.51 million hectares and 1.76 million hectares, respectively.

(c) It is estimated that funds to the extent of about Rs. 2500 crores will be required for taking up afforestation over 5 million hectares of land.

(d) The following important steps have been taken by the Government to improve the area under forest cover:—

(i) Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests;

(ii) Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors;

(iii) Liberalised import policy for forest products;

(iv) Guidelines to the State Governments—

(a) to avoid clear felling of natural forests.

(b) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(c) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(d) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

(v) Establishment of National Wastelands Development Board with a view to development of people's movement for afforestation.

Use of plants in monitoring Environmental Pollution

301. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of plants to monitor pollution of the environment;

(b) if so, whether this technique is being utilised in our country;

(c) what are the plants used for this purpose and what are the details of the pollutants so monitored; and

(d) whether the technique has been used to study pollution in lakes, canals, ponds and the ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An integrated research programme on responses of plants to air pollutants with special reference to Sulphurdioxide and Particulates in urban and industrial areas involving 8 centres in the country has been sponsored by this Ministry with a view to using plants for indicating, monitoring and abating pollution.

(c) Certain species or cultivars of higher vascular plants and many lower non-vascular plants such as mosses and lichens are used for this purpose. The pollutants monitored are Sulphurdioxide, Oxidants (Ozone and PAN), Nitrogen Oxides (NO and NO2), Fluorides, Particulates and Heavy Metals.

(d) Yes, Sir.